

# Auburn News

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## Overlook earns top marks from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

CHARLTON — In 2007, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) introduced a program to rate the quality of care and services provided by nursing homes throughout the country.

A nursing home's overall quality rating, as recorded on the CMS Nursing Home Compare website, is based on 3 critical ratings:

- 1) Health care inspections
- 2) Quality of resident care measures
- 3) Staffing

In its newest set of ratings published in August, the esteemed Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued the Overlook Health and Rehabilitation Center a maximum five out of five stars—for its overall rating, placing it among the top 10 percent of best nursing homes in the country.

In addition to its overall rating of five stars, Overlook Health and Rehabilitation Center earned five-star ratings for both its staffing and quality of resident care measures.

The five-star rating is a seal of excellence from CMS, underscoring the high quality of health care and service standards delivered within The Overlook Continuing Care Retirement Community. As well, the rating serves as a valuable tool for consumers when seeking the best of the best in nursing home care.

Tameryn Campbell, President & CEO of Masonic Health System of Massachusetts and the first-ever female leader of the senior living organization, noted, "We are honored to achieve this notable accomplishment from CMS. It lets us know we are fulfilling our mission and vision of providing superior person-centered care—and providing it with passion."

"I am especially proud of the five-star ratings for staffing and quality measures," Campbell added. "Our team members deserve that distinction, as they work incredibly hard—especially with the COVID-19 challenges confronting our industry, nation and world."

Campbell, who joined The Overlook in 2014, has spearheaded a transformation of the organization on all levels, leading to its financial stability and desirability among seniors in the region. The turnaround also earned her recognition from the Worcester Business Journal—on an elite list of 2019 outstanding women in business.

The new CMS ratings include data for more than 15,000 senior care providers participating in Medicare, Medicaid or both. Overlook Masonic Health Center is one of 102 providers in Massachusetts to receive a five-star overall rating.

## Nichols debuting new competency-based program

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — Nichols College has launched a new program geared towards offering a new pathway towards a Bachelor's degree for non-traditional students at the Dudley school.

Called the Competency-based Education (CBE) Program, the new offering is meant to be a flexible and independent pathway towards a degree for students who have chosen to pursue their college education either years after high school or as a part-time student which is defined as "nontraditional." The program will assess the mastery of subjects by examining knowledge, skills and abilities rather than being based on classroom time.

"With the degree requirement for more jobs growing, and the attainment rate for adults lagging, the need for Competency-based Education has never been more critical," said Kerry Calnan, Vice President for Innovation and Institutional Effectiveness at Nichols College in a press release on Sept. 21. "Nichols is committed to providing this alternative and viable pathway to help today's professionals achieve their goals."

The new program will include seven-week terms, two courses at a time allowing students to take classes at their own pace. Students will be allowed to add new courses before the end of the term if they finish a course ahead of time. All courses will be structures for online learning with an annual subscription fee regardless of how many courses students take during the year. Students who complete the program will be awarded a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a management concentration attached.

Candidates for this new program must carry a minimum of 24 college credits into the program. Academic advisors will also be made available for students. Interested potential students can learn more about the program by visiting <http://pages.nichols.edu/cbe/>.



## Local Boy Scout holds food drive

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Many times, Boy Scouts choose construction projects, nature initiatives or similar endeavors for their Eagle Scout projects but one local scout decided to take the opportunity to help those in need by organizing a food drive for his project in 2020.

Cameron Bodamer, a member of Charlton Boy Scout Troop #338, organized a successful food drive at Big Bunny Market on Sept. 19 and 20 collecting nearly 2,000 pounds of food to benefit the Southbridge Food Share who serve the towns of Charlton, Southbridge and Sturbridge among other communities. Bodamer said he was inspired to hold the drive for his project when he sought to do something with a larger impact than a traditional construction project and thought a food collection during a difficult economic time and pandemic would serve the greatest need.

"I always wanted to give back to the community and just building a shed or something like that wouldn't really give as much over a longer period of time. The Southbridge Food Share helps the community I live in as well as others like Southbridge and Sturbridge," Bodamer said. "Big Bunny Market were very accommodating. We went in with a goal of 500 pounds and we tripled that to over 1,800 pounds."

Big Bunny Market



Courtesy  
Charlton Boy Scout Cameron Bodamer, with just a portion of the 1,800 pounds of food collected at his two-day food drive to benefit the Southbridge Food Share.

was the only store that allowed Bodamer to set up for a collection as many businesses are adhering to strict COVID-19 restrictions. Bodamer said he received plenty of help from his fellow scouts who all filled bags from their own neighborhoods or volunteered their time to hand out fliers and work the col-

lection site during the two-day drive. It took three vehicles to transport the food which is expected to provide for hundreds of families throughout the region.

Bodamer hopes to see others donate their time and efforts to help local food banks especially as the pandemic continues to impact peoples' livelihoods and income.

"Especially with COVID, a lot of people are in need of food and other resources that are hard to get in these times. Even if you are fortunate and have everything, other people might not. Right now, it's important to give back and I'm thankful for all the support this project received," said Bodamer

## Apples, oxen, and Autumn harvest activities in store at Old Sturbridge Village



STURBRIDGE — Visitors are in for a whole host of fun activities when they visit Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) this fall, with four themed weekends celebrating apples, farming trade and the autumn harvest. With a working farm and an ox-powered Cider Mill on-site, guests to OSV will get a firsthand look at the process of bringing food in from field-to-table and harvesting practices of the early 19th century.

"The positive numbers of visitors to the Village over the past few months has assured us that families are excited to create memories and experience the great outdoors," says

Jim Donahue, President & CEO of Old Sturbridge Village. "With these fall programs and activities, we are working every day to ensure that we provide fun and enriching opportunities in a safe and comforting environment for all ages."

Apple Outings: Sept. 26-27 and Oct. 3-4

One of the most popular items of the fall harvest is apples, but varieties were different in the 19th-century from what we commonly see today. Guests can learn about the "winter banana," "granniwinkle," "hagloe crab," and "blue permain" apples, among others, and witness the process of squeezing apples

into cider - a more robust and fermented drink than the sweet cider we think of today. Throughout the day during Apple Outings weekends, OSV interpreters will be cooking and preserving apples from the harvest and operating the ox-powered Cider Mill.

Oxen, Fields, and Farmers: October 10-12

Guest oxen will be visiting the Village during the holiday weekend, available for meet and greets. Visitors can learn about plowing and field preparation while at OSV, and meet the Village's other animals - sheep, cattle, pigs, and chickens who live on-site. Tradesmen will be working through-

out the weekend in the blacksmith shop, potters' shop and more, and the horse-drawn wagon will be running to take visitors around the scenic campus to see the gorgeous fall foliage.

Autumn Harvest Weekend: Oct. 17-18

In the last of the Village's themed fall weekends, visitors are invited to celebrate the autumn harvest! Costumed interpreters will be busy at work preserving the harvest, prepping apples, potatoes, carrots, beets and more for storage and cooking, shelling corn and beans, and putting the gardens to bed for winter. It's a sight to see with the whole Village busy at work! Farm animals, demonstrations led by artisan crafters, and horse-drawn wagon rides will also be offered during Autumn Harvest Weekend.

NEW this year, the Village is hosting a Virtual Home Gardener's Exhibit to help guests celebrate the fall harvest from near and far. Those who enter the exhibit can present what they've been growing in their gardens throughout the year, showcased during a digital display of entries

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# “It’s the way Nature knows”

## SPEAKER URGES CHANGES TO FARMING TO PROTECT CLIMATE

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

REGION — “We need a more indigenous relationship of honoring Earth,” said psychologist and former Rodale Institute CEO Tim LaSalle. “... We can enhance everybody’s livelihood, including the non-humans on this planet.”

To LaSalle, that major worldview change would anchor a broader way to address what he termed the “sort of desperation” many people have regarding environmental concerns. In brief, he sees a need to balance understanding the psychology of how we got where we are with changing how we get food to address “two existential crises” – soil fertility loss and climate change.

“We need a whole-systems approach,” he observed. “... We have to go to some of the core elements and find the leverage points to change it.”

He was speaking recently on “Regenerative Agriculture: Cure for an Ailing World.” The basic principle behind regenerative agriculture is that restoring soil fertility and thereby improving crop yields does not require more and better chemicals, but working with the living things that are already there. Instead of fertilizers, it calls for allowing grazing animals to leave manure, letting leaves and clippings stay on the soil, and allowing the native soil fungi, microbes and small organisms to thrive. When that happens, plants are healthier and can fend off pests without pesticides.

Those pests, he later observed, are naturally a minority: “There are thousands of beneficial insects for every one pest.”

LaSalle noted regenerative methods work quickly, rebuilding soils over less than a lifetime that would otherwise take around 1,000 years per inch. In gardens, using a system called a Johnson-

Su bioreactor (the plans for which are available at the [www.csuchico.edu](http://www.csuchico.edu) website and can be built in a basket) can restore soil fungi in around one year if kept fairly warm. After that, it only needs to be applied to the garden once or twice to inoculate the soil. What he termed symbiotic systems of plants, animals and fungi sequester carbon at a rate that’s “a magnitude higher than what current science says is possible.”

“It doesn’t take long to bring life back” to the soil doing such things, he noted. “... It’s the way Nature knows.”

Event host Adam Sacks noted there’s been “a good exponential curve” in public interest in regenerative agricultural practices. While that’s “an extraordinary paradigm shift,” it’s still notably a minority in terms of farming acreage.

To him, climate is not a technological problem, but a “biological problem.” Working with the animals and plants helps biodiversity recover – “all kinds of things start coming back.”

LaSalle agreed, noting that promoting the change requires reaching out to farmers who may be “climate deniers.” Instead of selling it to them that way, he advocated providing evidence the change would save them money (especially on chemicals), give them healthier plants and cleaner water and better profits. Furthermore, he added, recent trials using no or far less fertilizer with regenerative methods grew the same quality of corn at lower cost than chemical-heavy methods.

As an example, he pointed to an Australian regenerative farmer who has been able to double his crop yield while also buying up acreage from nearby failing traditional farmers.

At a large scale, though, getting there requires fixing the fact that, as we’ve become more urbanized, we’ve increasingly lived in “concrete canyons lacking a real relationship with Nature,”

he said. Computerized culture, even in farming itself, accelerates that.

In many respects, what we see has been driven by the misuse of psychology by Madison Avenue. He noted advertisers latched onto the ideas of Freud to manipulate the public or their own profit, but some of it can be reversed.

Companies know “to have a business 20 years from now, they have to get a handle on climate change,” he said. A key part of that is turning agriculture back into a “carbon-capture system,” when it now is not, and recognizing that all energy sources are sunlight-based.

That’s a reference to the fact fossil fuels are concentrated plant life of 60 million years ago, solar is current sunlight, wind is the motion of air driven by solar heat, and even nuclear power comes from atoms produced at the cores of ancient stars. Most current systems pump carbon into the atmosphere at some stage of their process, and even hydroponics won’t help reduce CO<sub>2</sub>, LaSalle noted. Although hydroponics don’t have the contaminants of standard agriculture, he’s not sure how their crops compare to regenerative ones nutritionally, and would like to see it studied.

When asked about organic farming, he observed those soils “can be as dead or nearly as dead” as conventional farms because of tillage, which breaks up the soil communities.

“Who needs to profit from this? Earth needs to profit from what we do.” LaSalle asked rhetorically, adding our present culture “has been destructive of what produces life on this planet.”

LaSalle’s talk was the most recent of WGBH’s “Life Saves the Planet” series presented by Biodiversity for a Living Climate ([www.bio4climate.org](http://www.bio4climate.org)).

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### ACCURACY WATCH

The Auburn News is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur.

Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page 3 in a timely manner.

If you find a mistake, call (508) 909-4106 or email [news@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news) during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor’s voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call.

## Local student named to Dean’s List at Northern Vermont University

LYNDONVILLE, Vt. — Vanessa Symonick of Auburn was named to the Dean’s List for the spring 2020 semester at Northern Vermont University. Students who achieve between a 3.50 and 3.99 semester average are placed on the Dean’s List.

Northern Vermont University is a two-campus institution of higher education with campuses in Johnson and Lyndonville, Vermont as well as an online division that combines the best of our campuses’ nationally recognized liberal arts and professional programs. At Northern Vermont University, our goal is to guide curious, motivated, and engaged students on their paths to success and their places in the world. Learn more at [NorthernVermont.edu](http://NorthernVermont.edu).

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# Dowd to serve as interim Police Chief

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – With the recent announcement that Charlton Police Chief Graham Maxfield would retire effective Oct. 1, Town Administrator Andrew Golas confirms that an interim chief has been named and that the town is currently in a waiting period to determine exactly how they will hire a new leader for the department.

Charlton Police Lt. Daniel Dowd was named the interim chief as he is the second in command for the department and would naturally fill the post in the chief’s absence. However, the permanent replacement for Chief Maxfield may be a few months away. Town Administrator Golas said that following a vote last year removing the chief position from civil service the town is awaiting confirmation of a bill on the state level to allow the Board of Selectmen the power to determine their own pick for a new hire.

“Last year, the town voted to takes the chief position out of civil service. The civil service process essentially mandates that the town conduct an assessment type test to evaluate candidates

that are interested in the position and choose the person who scores the highest on that assessment. There is really not a lot of flexibility with that process and it forces the town to choose the individual that just scores the highest on the test,” Golas explained. “The town’s move last year was to petition the legislature to allow the town to basically fill the chief vacancy in any manner the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate.”

The bill still needs to pass the House and be signed by the governor, but recently received approval from the Senate. Golas said the town is waiting to receive approval to begin its search for a new chief. For now, the selectmen and Golas feel comfortable with Dowd in the lead role. Golas confirmed that selectmen plan to hire from within the department when the time comes.

“The other process that was in place would have basically forced us to hold the test for anybody who was interested and if the person who scored the highest was someone the Board of Selectmen didn’t want in the position they would have had to have an allowable reason as to why they weren’t appointing that

individual. It was much more of a process that was very antiquated, and the town wasn’t interested in following anymore,” said Golas.

The Town Administrator said Chief Graham Maxfield will be sorely missed and credited the chief with bringing the department to “professional standards” and setting the department up for a promising future.

# Local students enroll at Nichols College

DUDLEY — The newest class is welcomed to Nichols College.

Jessica Barrell of Auburn  
Colin Lutz of Auburn  
Alexis Strozina of Auburn  
About Nichols College

Nichols College is a college of choice for business and leadership education as a result of its distinctive career-focused and leadership-based approaches to learning, both in and out of the classroom, and through impactful research and professional education. Students thrive in a learning and living environment that is supported by an experiential business curriculum and a strong liberal arts foundation aimed at transforming them into tomorrow’s leaders. Nichols also offers master’s degrees in business, leadership, accounting, and counterterrorism, as well as a range of certificate programs, to promote career advancement for today’s professionals.

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## Friday’s Child



**Gianna  
Age 13**

**Hi! My name is Gianna and I am up for adventures!**

Gianna is an outgoing and friendly girl of African American and Caucasian descent. Though she is quiet when she first meets people, she is sweet, friendly and funny with a great sense of humor! Gianna is very interested in gymnastics, running and walking 5K’s, and cheerleading. Gianna’s social worker describes her as a resilient child who is very determined and kind hearted.

Gianna has attended weekend sleep away retreats with her sister through the sibling connections programs on a few occasions and has enjoyed this opportunity. Any opportunity to spend time with her sister is enjoyed and anticipated greatly by Gianna. She is supported by an IEP in school and has developed some very close relationships with her support staff there. She has begun to

take great pride in her work and earned honor roll all of the past academic year. Gianna works hard in school and truly appreciates the positive feedback and recognition that she receives as a result.

Legally freed for adoption, Gianna would do best in a single-female-parent or two-female-parent home where she is the youngest or only child. She will need continued contact with her younger sister who is placed separately. Gianna loves animals and learning about how to care for them and would love to have a pet. In a future home, Gianna hopes to have her own room. Her social worker is open to exploring local families that could potentially start off as a visiting resource for her in order to build a relationship prior to place

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The process to adopt a child from foster care requires training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you, and if so, to help connect you with a child or sibling group that your family will be a good match for.

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at 617-6273 or visit [www.mareinc.org](http://www.mareinc.org). The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.



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# Design pro Andre Mills illustrates graphics’ power to persuade

WORCESTER — Professional graphic designer, illustrator and caricaturist Andre K. Mills will illustrate graphics’ power to persuade in The Communicators Club’s Oct. 6 virtual event.

Sometimes, words aren’t enough. An often-overlooked component in raising awareness — and the personality profile — of a business and brand is through memorable graphic design. Mills will explain the power of graphics in a Zoom presentation set for noon to 1:15 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6. The \$10 program fee

includes networking opportunities and the chance for those attending to promote their business before the main discussion begins. A question-and-answer session will follow his talk.

- Mills, a Jamaica native who majored in art at the University of Lowell (now UMass Lowell), plans to address the following areas of interest:
- Defining graphic design.
  - Detailing how its best used to convey ideas and concepts in the enterprise.
  - Describing the impact strong visual communication can have on people, businesses and the world-at-large.

Mills’ Lowell-based digital services include logo, website and animation creation; he also draws caricatures and

portraits, and commissioned work that includes T-shirt and book illustrations.

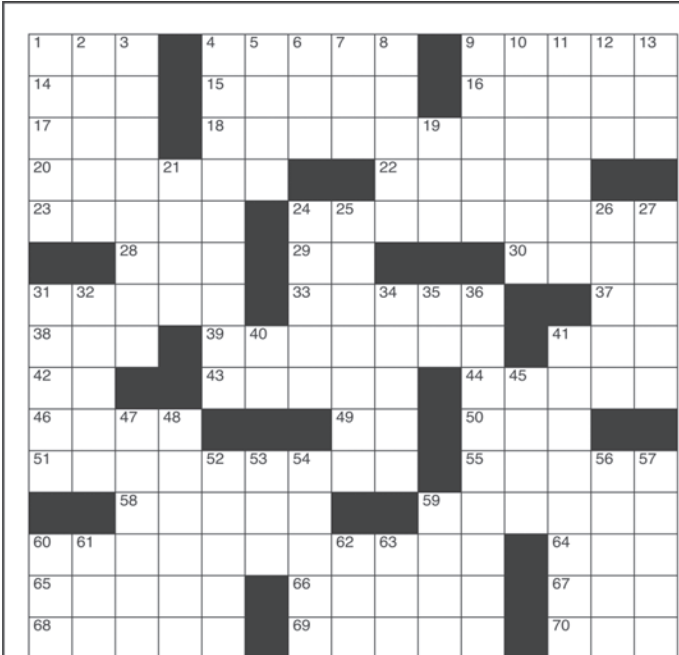
To register for the program, go to <https://conta.cc/32F2dsr>. For more information about The Communicators Club, visit<https://communicatorsclub.org/>.

About The Communicator’s Club (TCC)  
Just as communications and the roles of diverse jobs within communications have morphed and expanded since the 1950s, TCC has grown and changed. The Communicators Club today is a blend of the Society of Professional Communicators (founded in 1951 as the Worcester County Editors Council) and the former AdClub of Greater Worcester. Membership reflects twenty-first-century professional communications—advertisers, writers, editors, multimedia design and production specialists, marketers, and public relations experts—all work toward an integrated marketing approach that’s crucial to success in today’s marketplace. The



Andre Mills

Communicators Club’s monthly programs provide professional development from industry experts, networking and other opportunities in a friendly, informal atmosphere, all online this year.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Part of (abbr.)

4. Persons

9. Moved with a curving trajectory

14. Bitterly regret

15. Cause to feel embarrassed

16. Type of toast

17. Bobby \_\_, NHL champ

18. Analogies

20. Mixes

22. Beloved flowers

23. Clinton special prosecutor

24. Avoids

28. Innermost brain membrane: \_\_ mater

29. Atomic #18

30. Remain as is

31. One who’s been canonized

33. Indian king or prince

37. The Bay State

38. Forms adjectives
39. Give off

41. Partner to flow

42. Biblical Sumerian city

43. Popular clothing material

44. Organism parts

46. Central US Native American people

49. Blood type

50. Wrath

51. Perennial tropical grass

55. Vetches

58. Buffaloes

59. Envelope type

60. Tuberculosis

64. Israeli city \_\_ Aviv

65. Pops

66. Indo-European languages

67. Fiddler crabs

68. Large bank

69. Not fresh

70. Scientist’s device (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

1. High schoolers’ dances

2. Style of rock music

3. Maryland athlete

4. Softened by soaking

5. Native Aussies

6. Some are on it

7. Clairvoyance

8. Broken piece

9. Wrong

10. Starts over

11. Where to hang clothes

12. One point north of due east

13. Gov’t lawyers

19. Mass of eggs in a shellfish

21. Smile

24. Wrap

25. A citizen of Iran

26. Island off the coast of Tanzania

27. Attempts

31. Beloved “Doctor”
32. Type of turtle

34. Leg (French)

35. Indicates position

36. Self-doubt

40. Of I

41. Retired but allowed to retain title

45. Algerian port

47. African country

48. “Wayward Son” rockers

52. Bring out of sleep

53. Auburn legend Newton

54. Heavy wooden shield in ancient Greece

56. Choose to represent

57. Peace

59. Work hard

60. Reciprocal of a sine

61. Express delight

62. Explosive

63. Journalist Tarbell



## Old Sturbridge Village partners with bankHometown for new initiative

STURBRIDGE — Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) with the support of bankHometown based in Oxford, Massachusetts, in response to urgent needs brought on by the pandemic, has created a “One Room School House” learning pod for children in the museum community. The innovative program serves children of Old Sturbridge Village and Old Sturbridge Academy employees impacted by disruptions to in-person school learning. There is no cost for staff children to attend the School House. The program takes place in the Village’s modern, well-equipped Museum Education building and operates Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., following the academic year schedule. COVID-19 safety protocols mirror the rigorous standards followed by Old Sturbridge Academy and approved by the Sturbridge Board of Health for in-school learning.

- The program addresses the following priorities:
1. It saves jobs:
  2. Old Sturbridge Village and Old Sturbridge Academy staff with children are able to continue working regardless of the status of in-person or remote learning imposed by schools.
  3. Museum educators who

ordinarily are busy leading hool field trips, instead staff the One Room School House. (With the loss of field trips, museum education jobs were in jeopardy.)

4. It benefits children:
5. Academy teachers are able to remain in their classrooms for the full school year, providing continuity for their predominantly high-need students.
6. Staff children in Kindergarten to Grade 9 who have been learning remotely, now receive critical socialization, outdoor physical activity, assistance with school work, arts education, and engagement in exciting museum activities.
7. It models responsiveness and innovation
8. The One-Room School House serves as a model to other cultural and educational institutions for how to creatively respond to community needs.

Old Sturbridge Village is a living history museum depicting life in the 1830s, so the concept of a one-room school house ties in with the Village’s programming. An early New England school house consisted of various age groups, with older children often helping the younger children. Similarly, the model the Village has put into place

today, has students working in two or three mixed-age groups of approximately ten students in each group. In the mornings, children will work independently on their own district-led Virtual Learning, using their own electronic devices.

“The younger students spend up to three hours daily on school work, while older students may spend up to five. In the afternoons, they enjoy museum-based Experiential Learning Activities, working in multi-age groups in the Museum Education building and throughout the Old Sturbridge Village campus to complete projects and activities,” said Emily Dunnack, Director of Museum Education. Dunnack went on to say, “Varied activities include daily physical activity, art and nature programs, and access to the Village’s historic buildings, interpreters and natural areas. Some children learn to stitch a quilt, others work with village interpreters to harvest and preserve produce for winter or to plant a garden in the spring. Younger children are paired with older students, their ‘Reading Buddies,’ to help increase literacy and interpersonal skills. Every day we offer different opportunities for learning and playing.”

“bankHometown is thrilled to partner with Old Sturbridge Village on the One Room School House, because we believe strongly in the value of education and in the Old Sturbridge Village experience to help young people in our communities unlock their full potential,” said bankHometown President and CEO Robert J. Morton. “We are impressed with the innovative approach to this project, which will help preserve jobs, provide a high quality, in-person educational experience for participating students, and keep Old Sturbridge Village a relevant and sustainable organization.”

“Old Sturbridge Village is proud to offer this innovative program without cost to our museum and Academy families. The impacts will be far reaching and long lasting for both the children and the adults’ involved,” said Jim Donahue, President and CEO. “We as an organization are proud of that fact that we were able to find a solution to what many families are struggling with due to no fault of their own.”

## Webster First donates \$10,000 toward cancer research at UMass

WORCESTER — 2020 marks the fourth consecutive year that Webster First Federal Credit Union proudly sponsored the annual UMass Cancer Walk & Run. Every year, this event raises funds to support cancer research, clinical trials, and patient care for the UMass Cancer Center located in Worcester, where Webster First has its headquarters.

Speaking about the value and importance of supporting this cause, President/CEO Michael Lussier said, “The reality is that most of us have been personally affected by cancer whether that be our family, friends, colleagues, or even ourselves. The Webster First team wanted to show our support for the UMass Cancer Walk because we saw how it brought the community together to raise awareness and it connected with our team on an emotional level. It is also meaningful to know that all funds raised through this event directly support cancer care, research, and clinical trials.”

The UMass Cancer Walk & Run was held Sunday, September 13th, 2020. This year, due to the uncertainties of the coronavirus pandemic, the event was held virtually. The virtual event featured special guest appearances from The Voice’s Toneisha Harris and Worcester native Ricky Duran.

ABOUT WEBSTER FIRST

Webster First Federal Credit Union serves the financial needs of Essex, Middlesex, Suffolk, and Worcester Counties. Founded in 1928, Webster First is one of the largest credit unions in Massachusetts with over \$1B in assets and serving over 77,000 members.

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## Leave the signs where they stand

As the days wind down to the Presidential election, we're seeing more division than ever. Fortunately, in smaller areas such as ours, it's largely business as usual, and people on both sides can still have friendly conversations, in person that is.

The online banter and sign stealing is another story, however. We must note that sign stealing is a crime that comes with a fine of \$1,000. Stealing signs will in no way sway someone to change their vote.

Beware the division that social media can sew and intended to sew all along. If you read something, don't automatically take it as fact. There's been a veer from reality due to social media trolls, with the sole purpose of dividing the country. We are better than that, and intelligent enough to see through it. We've said it before, if you see something you disagree with online, you don't need to jump on it and chime in. Think for yourself and trust your own ability to weed out what's true and what's not. Private conversations are also best. Further, commenting on a stranger's post is absolutely useless, don't even waste your time.

It's not OK to hate another person due to their political views. If someone disagrees on policy with you, that's ok. Maybe you don't want to go to Sunday brunch with that person, but there's no need to hate. It's especially hard when you see some individuals who think that acting mean and condescending is a sign of toughness. It's not. It just means they are simply, mean and condescending.

What's interesting is that the people you see on television shouting rude comments and carrying guns as a way to intimidate, probably don't like it when someone yells back. The second amendment was not intended to be used to intimidate fellow Americans into thinking the same way that we do. We think it's safe to say that those same individuals, prefer when people in their own lives are kind to them. So, what gives? The hate is exhausting.

While this may be easier said than done, if you see a sign that you don't agree with, at least try to appreciate the fact that in America we have the freedom to think differently from one another, and to make it known. For example, if you drive by a sign of a person you would not vote for, just shrug your shoulders and remember the freedom that those different signs represent. A freedom that must be protected.

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We don't have a set limit, but if you keep it around 600 words or so, you're going to have a better chance at seeing all your words in print.

If you want to write a bit longer about a particular issue, maybe a guest Your Turn column is your cup of tea. If you do that, try to keep it between 700-800 words.

Remember, libelous remarks and/or personal attacks are a no-no and could lead to your letter not being published.

So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!



## The positive solution is American optimism

I awoke this morning, thinking, "When pessimists pick up a brick, they throw it, but when optimists pick up the same brick, they build something positive and useful."

There is much in the news as I pen this column about Judge Amy Comey Barrett and her spiritual beliefs. She is an enthusiastic participant in her Roman Catholic faith and that seems to offend some and frighten others. How is it we've come back to this point?

Criticize her for her rulings on the bench. Her political ideology is certainly fair game and open for debate. Roe v Wade, the Affordable Care Act ... there are many areas of her public, professional and ideological life that can be debated, but I believe there is one area that is off limits and that's her family. And when it comes to her faith, politicians should tread very lightly. Unless her faith is leading her to break the law or have some life view that is so extreme as to be completely out of the American mainstream, which she does not ... her faith should also be off limits.

How did we get here?

The ideological differences are stretching us to limits that are in danger of tearing apart the very fabric of our nation. I believe our national character is in danger of being scarred forever, and in the process, altering our very way of life. The rational majority of people across the nation must stand up and reject the violence in the streets and political vitriol that is pulling us apart.

Optimistic people do not react this way to ideological differences.

No nation in history has shared, nurtured, and prospered, with such powerful optimism as the United States of America. When people talk about "American Exceptionalism," I believe we are talking about our optimistic spirit and positive belief in our future. I don't believe we are smarter or better than other nations, but I am certain that it has always been our optimism in our future that has propelled us into world leadership. I believe the ultimate optimism is our history of faith that has created the foundation of our constitution and is woven tightly into the fabric of our nation.

Scripture speaks of Thomas and how his doubts brought a risen Jesus to his side to proclaim, "Blessed are those who believe but have not seen."

Judge Amy Coney Barrett, by all accounts, lives the life of a faithful believer and again, it seems to offend some and threaten others. Within twenty-four hours, her faith has been dragged through the mud and her family criticized. I read an



POSITIVELY  
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MOORE

fervently defend with deep admiration, this judge, and her family for not only practicing but living out their faith.

You can be an optimist and not like the President's choice. You can be a positive person yet disagree with this nominee's rulings from the bench, but optimistic people do not try to damage those with whom they disagree. Optimistic people enter debates believing something better will come because of the discussion. Positive people believe that others with differences of opinion can still work together for the betterment of our nation and world. An optimist will not throw bricks, damage other people's property and physically harm others over ideological differences. When an optimist has a brick in hand, they build something positive and beautiful.

I am confident that rational people on both sides of the political debate can find common ground and return our nation from the brink. I believe in American Optimism. But let me assure you that believing in optimism is only half the battle. We must rise together and demand an end to the vitriol that's tearing us apart. Both extreme sides will stand and point fingers at the other side, but I assure you, it is coming from the extremes on both sides. Those in the extremes will never admit fault, it's going to take those of us in the middle who believe this nation and our values are worth saving, to rise up without a brick in our hand and say enough is enough.

I believe it will be "American Optimism" that will save us. The silent majority of us in the middle must demand more and better from our elected officials. Write your representatives in all branches of government and on both sides of the aisle and tell them enough is enough. Right now, they are only hearing from the extreme pessimists on both sides, and as such, it is the vocal and negative minority that will drive us over the cliff unless we stop them.

I believe in "American Optimism." I believe in the collective "us."

What will you do today with your brick?

*Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryWMoore721 and at [www.garywmoore.com](http://www.garywmoore.com).*

## Create new garden beds this fall



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Photo Melinda Myers

**Renting a power edger will make creating a large garden bed easier and less labor intensive.**

side down and wait for it to decompose.

Another method for clearing the grass is to cover the area with cardboard topped with several inches of organic mulch and wait for the grass and cardboard to decompose. You can push back the mulch and cut through the cardboard to plant immediately. Or wait to begin planting next spring after the grass and cardboard have broken down completely.

For quicker results and control of perennial weeds, try a total vegetation killer. These products kill the top and roots of the good and bad plants they touch. Read and follow label directions carefully. Start your soil preparation after the required waiting period has passed.

The next step, an important one, is soil improvement. It is easier to repair and improve the soil before you plant. Plus, time spent now yields years of good results. Add two to four inches of organic matter like aged manure, peat moss or leaf compost to the top 8 to 12 inches of soil. These materials improve the drainage in heavy clay soil and increase the water holding ability in fast draining sandy or rocky soils.

Check the labeling on the bag when purchasing these products. Make sure the product you select is USDA and STA certified to ensure quality. USDA BioPreferred certified products are

derived from plants and other renewal products, providing an alternative to petroleum-based goods. Look for United States Composting Council's STA certified compost that is a renewable, consistent, high quality product made from locally available organic material.

Once you mix in the organic matter, rake the garden level and smooth. Your garden is ready to plant. Fill it with spring flowering bulbs, perennials, trees, and shrubs this fall. Or cover it with shredded leaves or other organic mulch to suppress weeds and prevent soil erosion. Use the winter to plan the garden so you will be ready to plant once spring arrives.

In either case, your efforts this fall reduce your workload next spring and shorten the time to a more beautiful landscape.

*Gardening expert Melinda Myers has more than 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening. Myers is the host of The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio segments. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Myers' website is [www.melindamyers.com](http://www.melindamyers.com).*

## Financial moves for life's 'Inflection Points'



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You've probably heard or read about inflection points. The term has a specific definition in mathematics, but it's also used widely to describe historical or technological events, such as the Industrial Revolution or the creation of the internet – events that changed human existence in some important way. However, you have personal inflection points, too – and when they occur, you'll need to make the right financial moves.

Here are four of the most important of these inflection points, along with suggestions on dealing with them:

**Marriage** – When you get married, you and your spouse will need to discuss a variety of financial issues: What assets and liabilities do you each bring to the marriage? Should you combine your finances or continue with separate accounts? Is one of you a "saver" while the other is a "spender"? Do you share similar investment philosophies, or is one of you much more aggressive than the other? You don't necessarily have to agree on everything, but you should at least try to gain enough knowledge so you can avoid unpleasant surprises, such as hidden debts, and find enough common ground so your household can advance toward your common financial goals.

**New child** – When you welcome a new child into your family, you'll need to make sure you have adequate life insurance. You'll also want to review the beneficiary designations on any existing insurance policies, as well as on your IRA and 401(k). And if you can afford it, you may want to start contributing to a college fund, possibly using a 529 savings plan, which can provide you with tax advantages as you put money away for your child's higher education.

**Divorce** – It's unfortunate, but true: Divorce is still pretty common, and it's neither pleasant nor cheap. You might not be able to avoid some of the costs, such as lawyers' bills, but if you and your ex-spouse can work together amicably, you both may be able to avoid serious financial disruptions. You'll need to work out how to divide your financial assets, paying attention to beneficiary designations, which you may well need to change. Also, as a newly single individual, you may need to review and revise your long-term investment strategy to accommodate changes in your goals and your retirement income.

**Retirement** – By the time you retire, you will have hopefully been investing in your IRA and 401(k) or other retirement plan for several decades. But once you do retire, you'll need to determine how much you can afford to withdraw each year from your various retirement accounts. Your withdrawal rate will depend on your age, your asset level and your retirement lifestyle. And you'll also want to consider other issues: Are you prepared to deal with health care costs? Even with Medicare, these costs may be higher than they were when you were working. And how about your estate plans? Are they up to date? Have you protected your family from the possibility of your estate going through the time-consuming, expensive and public process of probate? You may need to work with your financial, tax and legal advisors to develop an effective estate strategy.

By making smart decisions following your own inflection points, you can ease the transitions in your life – wherever life takes you.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Dennis Antonopoulos, your local Edward Jones Advisor at 5 Albert Street, Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or [dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com](mailto:dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com). Member SIPC.*

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**OXFORD** – 377 Main St! 9 Rm Center Hall Colonial! .59 Acre Corner Lot! Charm of Yesteryear! Eat-In Frplcd Granite Kit w/Updated Cabinets, Frplcd Din Rm w/ Built-in China Cabinet & Butler Closet! Gracious Foyer! Spacious Frplcd Liv Rm! Breezeway to a Home Office or an Unfinished Cathedral Ceiling Fam Rm or Craft Rm! Sit on the Front Porch and Enjoy Morning Coffee or Evening Tea! Huge 2-Car Garage w/Loft-Storage Area! Mature Tree Studded Yard! **\$339,000.00**

**WEBSTER** – 9 Lake Parkway! Newly Remodeled 6 Rm Cape Conveniently Located! 3 Bdrms & 1.5 Baths! New Granite Kit w/SS Appliances, Siding, Gutters, Windows, Ext Doors, Oil Tank, 1/2 Bath, Plumbing, Electrical, Lighting! Oak Hrdwds! Recent Steam Boiler & Roof! Enclosed Porch! Deck! Garage w/Opener! Private Back Yard! **\$279,900.00**

**DOUGLAS** – 102 SE Main St! Start Packing! Spacious 9 Rm Colonial! 2.23 Acres! Center Island Granite Kit w/Soft Close Cabs, SS Appliances! Slider to 24’ Deck! Open Floor Plan! Hickory Wood Floors throughout the Kit, Din & Liv Rms, all w/Recessed Lighting! 1st Flr Office or Possible 4th Bdrm w/Oak Hrdwd Flr! Full Bath in the Hall! 2nd Flr w/Full Dble Vanity Bthrm & 3 Comfortable Bdrms, all w/Beautiful Wood Laminate Flrs! Master w/Cathedral Ceiling, Skylight, Ceiling Fan, Bay Window overlooking the Back Yard and a Master Bath! Lower Level w/2 Finished Rms, Utility Rm w/Laundry and Half Bath! 3.5 Baths Total! Recent C/Air, Heat & Roof! 24x26 2 Car Detached Garage! Huge Shed! Nearby Nature Trails & Wallum Lake Beach! **\$379,900.00**




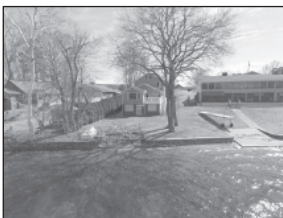
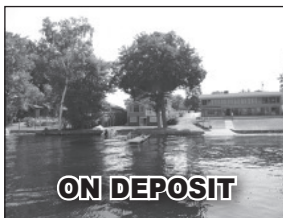










**WEBSTER LAKE** – 112 Gore Rd! NORTH POND! Sucker Brook Cove! 8 Rm, 3 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath Ranch is Ready for You! Southwestern Exposure! Gorgeous Sunsets! Unique Waterfront! An Open Floor Plan! Lake Views from Nearly All Rooms! 2x6 Construction! Energy Efficient Blinds in Every Room! 4 Oil Tanks - Fill Up Once a Year! C/Air! Gas Fireplace! Whole House Fan! Meticulously Cared For! Large workshop! 3 Car Garage! Carport! 2 Sheds w/Electric! Back Yard is Perfect for Family Gatherings! Plenty of Off Street Parking! Summer is Here! **\$539,900.00**







**HOLDEN** – 315 Holden St! 6 Rm Ranch! Meticulously Maintained! 2 Spacious Bdrms, Full Tiled Bath & 1 Car Garage! Move In Ready! Granite Oak Cabinet Kit w/Tiled Back Splash & JennAir Stove! Frplcd Liv Rm! Fam Rm! Gleaming Hrdwds! Perfect Yard w/Major Landscaping this Year! New Roof 2019! **\$344,900.00**

**WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT** - 3 Lakeview Rd! Middle Pond – Reid Smith Cove! Ideal Summer or Yr Round 6 Rm Ranch! Western Expo – Beautiful Sunsets! Near All the Excitement that “Indian Ranch” provides, Dining, Concerts & the Indian Princess! An Arched Bridge to Your Own Private Island, a Great Place to Enjoy the Lake from! Open Flr Plan! Being Sold Fully Furnished! Recent Kit w/Quartz Counters, Breakfast Bar, SS Appliances, Tile Flr & Recessed Lighting! Liv Rm w/Hrdwd Flr, 6x14 Lake Facing Picture Window & Stone Frplcd 3 Remodeled Bdrms w/Ceiling Fans & Hrdwd Flrs! Master w/Bath & Laundry Closet! Screen Porch w/Lake Views! Dock! Carport! Shed! Still Time for this Summer! **\$579,900.00**


**GRAFTON** – 168 Brigham Hill Rd! 8 Rm Garrison Colonial set on 1.3Acres! 4 Comfortable Bdrms & 2 Full Bthrms! Freshly Painted, Floors Recently Refinished! Spacious Kit w/Launch Counter! SS Appliances w/Gas Cook-Top! Grand Dining Rm for Family Gatherings! 18x26 Living Rm w/Pellet Stove! Master Bdrm w/Dble Closets & Hot Tub! Bright & Airy Mudroom out to the 2 Car Garage! Furnace & Hot Water Tank 5 Years Young! Radon tested at 2.5! Newer Roof on Garage & Breezeway! New Well Water Tank Installed! Title V in-hand! Property Abuts Grafton Land Trust - Hiking Trails Right Out Your Back Door! Convenient to Routes 90, 9 & 20! Immediate Occupancy! **\$449,900.00**

**WEBSTER LAKE** – 62 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 51’ Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 11 Rms, 6 Bdrms, 4 Bathrooms, 3,269’ AC’d Colonial! Custom SS Applianced Granite Kit! Formal Din Rm w/ Cherry Hrdwds! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hrdwds! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bdrm w/Full Bath, Cherry Hrdwds & Walk-in Closet! Frplcd Lower Level Fam Rm! 1st & 2nd Flr Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$949,900.00**

**WEBSTER LAKE** - 11 Bay View Rd! One of the Lake’s Premier Properties! 9,822’ of Nice! .68 Acres of Park Like Grounds! 297’ Waterfront! \$4 Million Spent, Nothing Spared! 17 Rms! 5 Water View Bdrms, 5.5 Bathrms! Brazilian Cherry Hrdwd Flrs, Grand & Spiral Stairways! Elevator, Ground Flr to Master Suite! In-door Resistance Swimming Pool, Hot Tub & Bthrm w/Steam Shower off Exercise Rm! Billiard Rm! Media Rm! Center Isl Granite Kit w/Viking Gas Range, Sub-Zero Frig, Pantry & Breakfast Bar! Open Flr Plan! Din Area, Fam Rm w/Entertainment Center w/Wet Bar! Formal Din Rm, Frplcd Liv Rm & Atrium! Library w/Deck! Waterfront Master Suite w/Office, Bdrm w/Triple Glass Dr to Private Deck w/Lake Views, 3 Walk-in Closets, Bathrm w/Multi-Head Shower, Whirlpool, Dble Vanity, Separate Commode/Bidet/Sink Area! 16 2” of Updated Geothermal Heat/A/C! Recessed Lights & Fire Sprinklers Through Out! 3 Car Garage! Generator! Slate Roof! Reward Yourself! **\$2,499,900.00**




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**1.99 ACRE INDUSTRIAL ZONED LOT!** GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE & WORK FROM HOME! Amazing 1790 Antique Colonial! Undergone major updates & renovations, maintaining Antique Charm! Great Room graced by an Open Hearth Stone Fireplace! Soaring Cathedral Ceilings! SOO MUCH MORE!  
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**WEBSTER - 39 OLD DOUGLAS RD**




**First time offered!** Lovingly cared for ranch situated on 1 acre! Recent improvements: windows, siding, gutters & new composite rear deck. Cabinet packed kitchen to the cedar closets . 3 full baths! Master Bath with laundry! Lower Level - Potential for an in-law or extra personal space for the Kiddos!!!! don't miss out on this one!!!!  
**\$338,000.**

**DANIELSON CT- 52 TAFT STREET**




**Spacious Ranch,** 1520+/- Sq Ft 8 room 3 Bedroom, 2 Full Baths. Hardwood Floors throughout. Fireplace family room. FHW/Oil Heat. - New Furnace, Windows, Also, recent Asphalt Driveway! Over sized Garage! 1/2 Acre Lot. Dead end road. Close to I-395!  
**\$255,500.**

**WOODSTOCK CT- 110 JOY RD**



Quisential Woodstock Farmhouse w/Spectacular views of Pond. Detached Studio Building! 2.5 Acres. Prof. Landscaped. 5 Bedrooms. Fireplace! Dining. library/Music room. Master Bedroom, 2 Full Baths! Renovated Kitchen. Upstairs, 4 Bedrooms w/Full Bath.  
**\$425,000.**

**WEBSTER - 195-199 THOMPSON RD**



3 ACRE COMMERCIAL SITE! APPROX. 550 FT ROAD FRONTAGE ON STATE HIGHWAY RTE 193 A/K/A THOMPSON ROAD. STRATEGICALLY NESTLED BETWEEN TWO (2) I-395 (NORTH & SOUTH) ON-RAMPS & TWO (2) I-395 (NORTH & SOUTH) OFF-RAMPS! PROPERTY DIRECTLY ABUTS I-395! 46'X80' CONCRETE BLOCK BUILDING. 7,680 SF TOTAL! FULL LOWER LEVEL USE & DRIVE IN GARAGE- DOOR! HIGH TRAFFIC - HIGH EXPOSURE! WHAT DO YOU HAVE PLANNED?!!  
**\$600,000.**

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**Webster** - Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! 1+ Acre! Artesian Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE. **NEW PRICE \$115,000.**

**Webster** - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res.! **\$49,000.**

**Douglas-Mount Daniels** 2.5 Acres abuts Douglas State Forest! **ON DEPOSIT! \$132,900**


**Dudley - Marshall Terrace** 12,000+/- Sq Ft Lot! Potential for a 2 Family! **SORRY SOLD! \$70,000.**

**Dudley** - Packard Dr. 2 Lots! Very Private! off Ridge Dr. **ON DEPOSIT! \$50,000**

**Oxford** - 4 Leicester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided! **\$89,900**


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**OXFORD - 4 SPICEBUSH LANE**




**One level living** with added 35 x 18 finished walk-out lower level. Cathedral ceilings, skylight dining, hard-wood flooring and central Air. Stainless appliances w/large double oven. Over-sized 30 x 14 deck. quiet cul-de-sac!  
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**WESTFORD - 41 WHISPERING PINES**




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**assisted sale \$225,000.**

**SUTTON - 470 BOSTON ROAD**




Updated Home that is on a 1 Acre, Professionally Landscaped Grounds. 5 rooms, 2 bedrooms. 3 bedroom septic will be installed. Baseboard oil heat. Recent exterior paint and newer Windows, Wood Flooring. Fireplace. Sunroom. 2 car garage!  
**assisted sale \$379,900.**

**WEBSTER - 56 CUSHING ROAD**




**FIRST TIME OFFERED!** Meticulously Cared for & Loved - 4 Bedroom / 2 Bath, 1963 Cape! Natural GAS Heat,Town Services! Boiler - Just like New! Corner Lot. Garage! 2nd Flr - 2 Lg Bdrms! Bathroom, Hardwood Floors, This House is Ready for a New Family, is it YOU?? Call today, Don't Delay!  
**\$272,900.**

**WEBSTER - 548 SCHOOL ST**



Aesthetically pleasing 4-5 BR CAPE!! 1,800 SF Cape! 8 rooms. 4 lg rooms & bath on 1st flr, eat-in kilchcen, living room, family room, office/possible 1st flr in-law bedroom. 2nd flr - 4 lg bedrooms & bath. 2 car garage.  
**\$199,900.**


**WEBSTER LAKE - 100 LAKESIDE AVE**



**YOU need to live is located on the 1st floor. Grand 2 story foyer, cozy fireplace living room, gourmet kitchen, lake facing dining , formal dining room, media room & spacious 1st flr guest BR Suite w/private bath. Incredible 2nd floor fireplace lake-facing corner master suite w/luxurious private bath, 3 more 2nd floor BRs & full bath! Something Special! Remember, Timing Is Everything**  
**\$1,075,000.**


**WEBSTER LAKE! PANORAMIC VIEWS! BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS! Extraordinary Waterfront Contemporary!** Architect designed with Lake Living in mind, Custom Built with Attention to High Quality & Detail. Outstanding open concept, water view from almost every room. Nicely situated on a 25 acre level peninsula, 180'+/- prime lake frontage! Enhanced by a all natural shoreline! All you need to live is located on the 1st floor. Grand 2 story foyer, cozy fireplace living room, gourmet kitchen, lake facing dining , formal dining room, media room & spacious 1st flr guest BR Suite w/private bath. Incredible 2nd floor fireplace lake-facing corner master suite w/luxurious private bath, 3 more 2nd floor BRs & full bath! Something Special! Remember, Timing Is Everything  
**\$1,075,000.**

**THOMPSON - 5+ ACRE WATERFRONT LAND - BECOLA ROAD**




**Thompson** - New 5+ Acre waterfront land listing on Little Pond! Also known as School House Pond. Private, pastoral setting, open field surrounded by tree line. Plan of land and septic design in hand!  
**\$179,900**

**LAKE SHIRLEY - 647 RESERVOIR RD**



**LakeShirley Lake Shirley! Modern Flare on a Lakefront Colonial! 1st level Formal large entry foyer, living room, gas fireplace, chef kitchen, Impala black granite, center island, 3 season porch, overlooking the lake. 1st Flr bedroom suite w/shower and jacuzzi tub. 2nd floor Master Suite! Lower level Summer kitchen, full bath, game room. Crown moulding & hardwood floors throughout, wired sound system, radiant floors, oversize 2 car garage. Additional Guest House! assisted sale \$1,040,000.**



# REAL ESTATE



# QCC president decries marginalization at Barton Lecture

WORCESTER — Advocating for the under-privileged and underserved has been a hallmark of Quinsigamond Community College President Dr. Luis G. Pedraja's career. Dr. Pedraja was the recent keynote speaker at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology Barton Lectureship. He spoke on the multiple pandemics plaguing our society in a webinar, "Living in the Margins: Equity, Education, and Theology in the Age of Pandemics."

The Roy D. Barton Lectureship was established in 1995, to honor Dr. Barton for his service to the seminary and his service to the Hispanic United Methodist Church. Through these lectures, participants have heard from the leading Hispanic/Latino scholars in theological education and church leaders who have made a significant impact on the Hispanic/Latino church and beyond.

"I had the pleasure of working with Roy and considered him a colleague and a friend," said Dr. Pedraja, who taught religion, philosophy, and theology at SMU from 1994-2000.

Dr. Pedraja's webinar defined and explored the topic of the "margins," as it relates to economic gaps, changes in ethnic and racial demographics, and

the roles of the Church and higher education in the new decade. He focused on the historic racism that has plagued society and looked at racism through the lens of education, addressing issues such as underfunding K-12, diminished resources, lack of educational role models, legacy of segregation, criminalization and labeling, high stakes tests, cost of education and underfunding of minority serving institutions.

"These barriers and many others contribute to the growing equity gap in colleges," he said.

He used the example of the higher education equity gap in Massachusetts, a state known for its contributions to higher education.

"The college attainment gap between white females and Latino males exceeds 40%. These gaps are not accidental, they are the result of a broken education system that intentionally marginalizes segments of the population," Dr. Pedraja said, noting the declining state investment in public and higher education for educational institutions that cater to the under-served populations.

Today, community colleges serve close to 50 percent of all undergraduates in the nation and serve more than 30 percent

of minority populations. Dr. Pedraja added that at QCC, the minority percentage is 40 percent, higher than any other population sector yet in terms of state funding, all 15 community colleges in the Commonwealth only receive 25% of state funding allocation.

"We educate the most, yet we get the least support," he said.

Addressing why these equity gaps should matter to society, Dr. Pedraja said that beyond the immorality of continuing to allow this to persist, in the aftermath of the pandemic if this continues, the economic gap will continue to grow.

"Education is essential to economic and social stability. In order to dismantle marginalization, we must be as intentional as those who marginalize others. Our task is to equitably and continually expand our notion of 'we' until we include those that we define as 'they,'" he said. "The equity gaps that exist in our society must be acknowledged and dismantled in education and even in theology."

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

# Seton Hall University names Cameron Prosser to Dean's List

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. — Seton Hall University is pleased to announce Cameron Prosser of Auburn has qualified for the Spring 2020 Dean's List.

After the close of every semester, undergraduate students completing all courses with a GPA of 3.4, with no grades lower than "C," qualify for the Dean's List.

As one of the nation's leading Catholic universities, Seton Hall has been showing the world what great minds can do since 1856. Home to over 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students and offering more than 90 rigorous majors, Seton Hall's academic excellence has been singled out for distinction by The Princeton Review, U.S. News & World Report and Bloomberg Businessweek.

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in mind, heart and spirit - since 1856. Home to nearly 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students and offering more than 80 rigorous majors, Seton Hall's academic excellence has been singled out for distinction by The Princeton Review, US News & World Report and Bloomberg BusinessWeek. Seton Hall, which embraces students of all religions, prepares its graduates to be exemplary servant leaders and caring global citizens. Its attractive main campus is located in suburban South Orange, New Jersey, and is only 14 miles by train, bus or car to New York City, offering a wealth of employment, internship, cultural and entertainment opportunities. The university's nationally recognized School of Law is prominently located in downtown Newark. For more information, visit [www.shu.edu](http://www.shu.edu).



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Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 11 = E)

**A.** 23 11 15 11 25 22 21 13 25 22 13 21  
*Clue: Provides medical care*

**B.** 26 14 11 10 15 11 25  
*Clue: Protection from the elements*

**C.** 15 25 13 22 21 22 21 2  
*Clue: Teaching skills*

**D.** 10 11 13 26 14  
*Clue: Restrains a pet*

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A black and white line drawing illustration of a busy garage sale. In the foreground, a man in a shirt and pants is looking at a small table with various items. To his right, a woman in a dress is looking at a table with more items. Further right, another woman is standing near a large pile of items, including a broom. In the background, a man is standing near a table with a lamp. There are several shelves and tables filled with various household items, including a lamp, a broom, and a chair. A small sign in the bottom left corner reads "Garage Sale".

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